EDITORIAL

Biophysical Journal is 32 years old. Under a succession of editors, it has grown in size and stature, just as the field of biophysics has grown. My goal as the new editor is to continue and accelerate this growth, so that *BJ* becomes universally regarded as *the* place to publish, and to read about, the most important developments in modern biophysics.

Modern biophysics is a broad and rapidly changing field which encompasses the study of biology at the molecular and cellular levels using the concepts and methods of molecular physics and physical chemistry, imaging, and computational science. Research on a broad range of systems—proteins, nucleic acids, membranes, and their biologically functional complexes such as channels, receptors, contractile systems, and nucleoprotein complexes—is unified when approached with this common set of intellectual tools. *Biophysical Journal* should be recognized as the prime vehicle for this unifying approach to biological science.

Biophysics is such a broad field, that it is a challenge to make *BJ* reflect the full range of contemporary topics, while at the same time maintaining the intellectual coherence that defines the discipline. To meet this challenge, we have made some ambitious plans.

Research Articles and Reviews

Biophysical Journal aims to reflect the broad range of topics covered at the Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society. We welcome papers in all areas of modern biophysics, but concentrate on topics central to modern molecular and cellular biophysics. Submission of papers is not limited to Society members.

We will publish more pages and more articles, while maintaining high standards of reviewing, so that each issue contains a broader and more comprehensive coverage of cutting-edge research in biophysics. It seems clear that we could multiply the size of the journal several-fold without sacrificing quality.

Each issue will be organized to group and emphasize papers on related topics. Authors will be asked to indicate the category in which they would like their paper to appear. (See "Instructions to Authors".)

A "New and Notable" section, written by Editorial Board members and other prominent biophysicists, will present incisive commentaries on significant recent work published both in *Biophysical Journal* and in other journals.

Publication of review articles, both invited and contributed, will be expanded.

Education in Biophysics

Biophysical Journal also intends to become a major resource for the modern teaching of biophysics. In addition to pedagogically oriented review articles and the "New and Notable" section, the journal will regularly publish articles and reviews on educational issues in biophysics. These will include:

- overviews of curricular design in this highly interdisciplinary field;
- use-tested ways of teaching specific topics of broad significance;
- book reviews in biophysics and related disciplines;
- software reviews.

These articles should be of interest to all biophysicists, regardless of research specialty.

Biophysics Community News

To provide greater service to the biophysical community, *Biophysical Journal* will also publish listings of employment opportunities, a calendar of conferences on biophysics and related topics, and the Biophysical Society newsletter.

New Publishing Technology

We are undertaking some changes in journal production which should give a more attractive product. We have begun to print all issues on nonglossy coated paper, to permit more flexible placement of articles containing halftones and color. Recognizing that many authors prepare their own figures using laser printers with graphics programs on personal computers, the "Instructions to Authors" now gives explicit instructions for achieving the best quality for the journal. We encourage color figures to accompany molecular structure papers, and hope to achieve significant printing economies as such figures become more frequent.

We intend to exploit vigorously new technology to speed publication, reduce publishing costs, and enable additional ways of communicating complex information. We are exploring computer methods to enable electronic submission, review, editing, and typesetting, including high-resolution figures. We hope soon to be distributing diskettes containing interactive microcomputer graphics files (*Kinemages*, developed by David and Jane Richardson), abstracts, bibliographies, coordinate sets, sequences, and computer programs, to accompany printed copies of *BJ*. These enhancements of scientific communication are being explored by the Innovative Technologies Development Fund (jointly sponsored by the Biophysical Society, ASBMB, and the Protein Society). They should make *BJ* more interesting and more useful to authors and readers.

These new features will be appearing over the next several months. I am confident that, coupled with the maintenance of the high scientific standards for which the journal is noted, they will go far toward enhancing *Biophysical Journal's* role as the intellectual home of biophysics.

Victor Bloomfield
Editor